



St. John UMC
Leadership Board Meeting

Date & Time:	Sunday, Sep 25, 2025, 12:15 pm
Location:	St. John United Methodist Church Room 108
Pastors in attendance:	Rev. Jenny Anderson
Leadership Board in attendance:	Charles Dixon (Leadership Board Chair & Trustees), Mark Barron (Staff Parish Relations, Lay Leader), Rich Bias (Finance—Chair), Sawyer Branham (Young Adult), Tonya Currier (Staff Parish Relations—Chair & Annual Conference Representative), Dan Griggs (Finance), Paula Matson (Staff Parish Relations), Mary Ottinger (Finance), Karen Phelps (Secretary), Warren Spooner (Trustees), Stephanie Quattlebaum (Mission and Ministries Representative), Greg Capers (Trustees—Chair)
Church members/staff:	Beth Dixon, Operations Coordinator

Opening— The meeting was opened with prayer by Mark.

Spiritual Formation – Each Board member shared in response to the question “How is it with your soul?”

Leadership Equipping for Guiding Principles— Rev Anderson assured the group that the guiding principles are on the website in PDF form. Concern was raised at the last meeting that being the Chair of the Leadership Board and chair of trustee committee may be too taxing for a single individual. This will not be an issue for next year, but the committee will reevaluate the structure at the board’s retreat, February 2026.

Review of New People – Faye, who has attended several times; Reverend Anderson is reaching out to her. Emma is a new choral scholar. Sawyer encouraged folks to welcome her. Ina, Trevor and their daughter Zoe Norsworthy have visited on several occasions and were at the Labor Day Lake celebration. Ryan and Savannah and their daughter Opal have visited and have indicated they plan to join once they are finished with some contract duties with their current church.

Goal Review and Accountability

Improved Accessibility of the Building

- Continue to make good progress on accessibility with the handrails being installed in the altar area.
- Second handrails have yet to be installed in the choir loft area.
- Repairs to the Chapel restroom have made it more accessible.
- Still working on sidewalk that goes around the church to make that safer.
- Reverend Anderson will work with facilities manager, looking at the transitions at door frames to make those safer and more accessible.

Stewardship - campaign is underway. Pledges from new people have been received. Committee will meet in late November/early December to decide on ways for monthly updates to keep Stewardship ongoing throughout the year. Finance Committee Chair, Rich Bias, requested that a follow up timeline be given so that the Finance Committee can bring a budget to the board in November 2025.

Review of Minutes.

- Board approved August 2025 Minutes.

Generative and Strategic Work

Trustees - Greg Capers reviewed the report submitted by the Trustees Team(included the consent packet).

- A date for the fire safety and compliance inspection of the Stith Mead building that supports DCCM has not yet been set.
- An issue, not addressed in the minutes but discussed in the meeting, was a tree at the corner of the building whose roots are lifting up the sidewalk and potentially growing in towards the foundation. There is a plan to remove the tree.
- Smoke detector installation has been completed and the invoice was paid.
- Confirmation that the live stream is working.
- Frustration was expressed about the lack of information from the city about street work which impacts access to our parking lot. Church staff have gathered information by frequently visiting the contractors who are working and gathering information directly from the supervisors on site.
- Painting of the youth room set for October 5 after church.
- The past grounds workday was a success. Plans for continued future days. Discussion of removal of the bushes between church and the towers.

Staff Parish Relations – Report in consent package and reviewed by Tonya Currier.

Since Chair of SPR, Tonya Currier, submitted the SPR the minutes added information about our apportionments was published. Tonya shared a one-page document from North Georgia Conference on how apportionments are computed and what our apportionments are for 2026. (Attached to minutes). We will have a 26% increase in our apportionments, which will be approximately \$40,000.

Finance Committee Report: The report was in the consent package. Finance Chair Rich Bias focused the team on the following:

- As of today the budget deficit is approximately \$44,000.
- A single request to the Endowment committee for approximately \$11,000 for staff expenses associated with work rendered around the hurricane last year.
- The movement of \$10,000 from the endowment.
- Chair of Finance and Beth Dixon reviewed the 2025 office expenditures to understand why expenses have been significantly higher than budgeted. The issue stems from late invoices from data masters upgrade. Because of this delay in billing office supplies were not budgeted appropriately. Next year will not be as high as this year.

The **Generative and Strategic Work Reports** from Trustees, SPR and Finance were approved.

Communications

Guiding Principles in regard to church bylaws, nominations, and leadership board structure should be reviewed at our next retreat.

Communicating through the office (when ordering flowers) for moving flowers from the pulpit area as needed.

Stewardship meeting mid-November with follow up plan for pledges that have yet to be received by mid-November.

Next Meeting– Tuesday OCT 21, 6:30 pm; Consent Packets materials due Monday OCT 13th at 9:00 am.

Closing– 1:31 PM with prayer from Mark Barron.